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Since 1973 waste oil has been classified in Massachusetts as a hazardous waste. The Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) regulates the way waste oil is stored and disposed, with the exception of that produced by households. Waste oil is the largest volume of hazardous waste by type in Massachusetts....80,000 tons are generated in a year.

Most of the waste oil in this state is burned for fuel, but indiscriminately disposed waste oil, poured into storm drains and septic systems or thrown out with the trash, has seeped into groundwater and contaminated community water supplies.

To comply with the regulations, if your operation produces waste oil, you will need to understand:

- the Guide to Determining Status and Regulatory Requirements
- your options for shipping or burning your waste oil
- how to manage your waste oil in storage

THE INFORMATION BELOW SUMMARIZES PORTIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATIONS (310 CMR 30.000) WHICH ARE AVAILABLE AT THE STATE HOUSE BOOKSTORE (617-727-2834).

How to determine your status as a generator:

How you are regulated depends on the rate at which you produce hazardous waste and how much you accumulate before shipping it. This will help you determine whether you are a Large, Small or Very Small Generator. Under more flexible regulations (effective 2/19/88) waste oil is now considered separately from other hazardous waste.

Large Quantity Generator (LQG) is one which produces more than 2200 pounds (approximately 275 gallons) of waste oil per month. LQG's may accumulate any amount, but are limited to 90 days of storage once the 2200 pounds have been accumulated. LQG's are required to obtain an EPA Identification Number and use a manifest when they ship their waste oil.

Small Quantity Generator (SQG) is one which produces less than 2200 pounds of waste oil per month. The SQG, under the new regulations, may accumulate up to 550 gallons in containers (drums), or 1,650 gallons in tanks, for as long as 180 days, whichever limit comes first. These SQG's have the option of using a manifest or a log for their shipments. If the log is used, the SQG is required to register with DEQE.

Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) is one which produces less than 220 pounds of waste oil per month. The VSQG may accumulate up to 165 gallons for an unlimited period of time and has the option of transporting the waste oil to another generator or receiving facility. The VSQG is also required to register with DEQE.

Burning waste oil as a fuel:

One of the methods of disposal of waste oil is burning for energy recovery. Space heaters which have been approved by the State Fire Marshall and the DEQE Division of Air Quality Control, rated at less than .5M BTU's per hour, may be used. The Division of Hazardous Waste will allow approved space heaters to begin operation within 10 days of receipt of their recycling application. For information about burning as a recycling activity, call (617) 292-5786 or 5905.

Completing the Application for EPA ID Number:

If you are a Large Generator of waste oil or apply for a space heater permit, you will need an EPA ID Number.

Line VII. Description of Hazardous Waste. The 4-digit code for waste oil is MA01.

Line VIII. Type of Hazardous Waste Activity.

Generator Categories. Determine your maximum monthly volumes of hazardous waste and waste oil (prior to burning) and check the appropriate categories.

If you are applying for a space heater permit:

License or Permit Categories. Check Recycler.

Waste Fuel Activity. Check Burn Waste Fuel and specify the type of waste fuel as Off-Specification Used Oil Fuel (unless it meets federal specifications) and Space Heater as the Burning Combustion Device.

Note: Each EPA ID is "site-specific." If you move your business, you will need to inactivate the ID and obtain a new ID for your new site.

Storing your waste oil:

Do not mix or blend solvents or any PCB-contaminated oil with your waste oil.

Waste oil should be stored in a safe, tight container or tank and should be labeled:

**HAZARDOUS WASTE
WASTE OIL
TOXIC
DATE ACCUMULATION BEGAN**

If you are storing your waste oil in an underground tank, please refer to the fact sheet Hazardous Waste Regulations for Underground Tanks Storing Waste Oil.

Accumulation area standards for indoor or outdoor storage are described in:
A Summary of Requirements for Small Quantity Generators of Hazardous Waste.

For information, call the Division's Compliance Assistance line (617) 292-5898.

List of approved space heaters
List of licensed transporters
Registration forms

Application for EPA ID Number
Summary of Requirements
Fact Sheets